



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application

Inventors: Barry N. Gardiner  
Paul T. McDonald  
Richard D. Phipps

SC/Serial No.: 08/781,579

Filed: January 9, 1997

Title: SUTURED STAPLE SURGICAL  
FASTENERS, INSTRUMENTS AND  
METHODS FOR MINIMALLY  
INVASIVE VASCULAR AND  
ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY

PATENT APPLICATION

Art Unit: 3731

Examiner: Pham, T.

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AUG 20 1998  
GROUP 3200

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on August 20, 1998.

*Dona C. Edwards*

Dona C. Edwards, Reg. No. 42,507  
Signature Date: August 20, 1998

RESPONSE B TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This RESPONSE B is in reply to the Office Action mailed July 20, 1998.

Amendments

Please amend the above-identified application as follows: